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The COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD awards dinner last night was in every way pleasant and worthy. The ease of the people in charge, the smoothness of the procedure, the appropriateness of everything-- all these made the occasion a good one. There was no strutting or fretting, no effort to be any bigger than we are. It is not necessary for an elephant to brag about his size; he can merely walk in his dignified way across the arena and attract attention. I feel that our school paper, through the years, has been rather good. When I have compared it with other college papers, I have been impressed with its seriousness, its dignity, its refraining from too much high-schoolish nonsense that mars many college papers.

The recent foolish efforts to organize the students around an objection to the policies of our own newspaper failed so badly that it hardly seems necessary to rejoice over the downfall of the grandiose scheme of a very few discontents. I have deliberately tried to get some faculty reaction to the group that met down town; every person I have spoken to felt, as I did, that it was in the hands of some below-average students, secretly aided by some malcontents on the faculty. The ridiculous fizzle that resulted ought to remind the next group of dissatisfied students to think twice before they start something.

Right about the time you were referring to last night, when I spoke about trashy things in college newspapers, some of our state's colleges got up in arms against student publications, as you well know. Once the president of the Intercollegiate Press Association's ~~président~~ could not attend the annual meeting because he had been suspended from his college for his attacks on his own school. That helped our own group by reminding them that unrestrained outpourings of untrained, immature students can ruin the name of a college. For some reason, these babes in arms think that the essence of free speech is to have an unsupervised scandal column, in which no holds are barred.

A part of this same movement is, of course, the perpetual subject of student self-government, which has arisen so many times that I have lost count. Many times I have learned from some such agitators that the students promoting self-government want to have a big hand in hiring and firing teachers. Some rather good students, so far as their academic work is concerned, have spilled the beans by declaring that they expected to get just such authority some time. I have always felt that these agitators could and would fall into the hands of unprincipled people on and off the campus and soon make the whole college a laughing stock. Most self-government students seem to want to govern others rather than themselves. An actual effort to upgrade a college seems entirely outside their thinking. I realize that something will have to be done, as a token, to satisfy the demands of serious students, but it will be a surrender when the discontents, the hoodlums, the perpetual failures get too much attention.

Many of us old-timers, even when we were far younger than we now are, laughed at the idea of student self-government, when we certainly had always had perfect freedom. Just how many limitations are placed on our students, anyway? The machinery of our college has always been easy on ignorant or even easy-going students. In any contest the college has always taken the rap; sometimes this has resulted in long-delayed registration, in application for degrees, in taking required courses in the proper order. But it must be remembered that many faculty people, some of them heads of departments, have consciously or unconsciously encouraged this dilly-dallying. It was no easy or desirable job to sit like an oriental judge and fairly cudgel students out of courses for which they were not qualified. And, rarely, did other departmental heads or higher-ups understand and cooperate. I once spoke pretty caustically in President Cherry's office to a departmental head who wanted me to violate every ruling of the school and admit Judge Somebody's daughter into a class two or three years

ahead of her collegiate standing. I said, and I have had a quarter of a century and more to think it over without being sorry: "President Cherry has made me the head of the English department." Student self-government should be able to improve upon the too-common conduct of faculty members who want to advance their own pets and friends.

Having been educated, after leaving here, in a university with many rules and regulations--probably too many, it is true--, I got a respect for authority and accepted it as part of the game. If our athletes rebelled against the rigid schedule of their trainers as many students and faculty members rebel against needed regulations, there would be no awards for good sportsmanship, at least; and I fear there would seldom be a winning team. The larger we grow, the more regulations that will become necessary, as any one can see. And the more imperative that these regulations be carried out.

The youthful nature of our student body, as any thinking person should know, makes supervision all the more necessary. Giving the vote to eighteen-year-olds does not give these same sovereign voters maturity. All my teaching career I objected to the free-for-all way of letting students take courses in any manner they chose and then, after years of hit-or-miss schooling, want to graduate, regardless of their grades or the courses taken. One of our teachers, now long gone, advocated letting a student make out his own courses, take the requisite number of hours, and then be graduated, whether he had worked off a major or minor or had taken anything in sequence. That is, I suppose, the acme of student self-government. This teacher's own students have often sworn at his memory, because they did not have any direction and got through college with little or no restraint or direction. Imagine an army with such wishy-washy regulations.

As a side-liner, I will be watching out when the self-government plan is worked out and set in motion. Certainly, with our young group, some sort of organization will be necessary.